

Seattle Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7th, 2013, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Greg Ramirez, Cathy Moore, Ethel Brach, Nika Dahlbacka, Alejandra Gonza, Anita Khandelwal, Andrea Negrete, Rich Stolz, Naomi McMillen

Commissioners Absent: Marty Penner, Katherine Beckett, Christina Ygon, Marsha Mavunkel, Alex Becker

SOCR Staff Present: Mike Chin, Ronald Ramp

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:03

Executive

The Commission filed the final report that will be attached to the audit. Next step meet with Bruce Harrell.

A forum will be held 12/18/13 around Russian laws that affect the LGBT community.

Ron will check with Alejandra about a guest speaker next month.

SPD use of force: Anita will take the lead on the commission's response. The current draft policy is not workable. Portland's use of force policy may be a useful example. The commission will have more specific suggestions as the work moves forward.

SPD Video: CPC did not call out anything in the audit. The DOJ supports triggers and accountability.

City Center Initiative: A lot of discussion continues about how to handle downtown. SPD should have good resources to serve vulnerable people. The commission will continue to monitor this, and wait until the DOJ report before taking a position.

Budget: The commission would like a budget committee in January in 2014.

The commission supports the Restorative Justice Program in the 2014 budget. Andrea will write the budget letter in support for this. Rich will to help with the budget in 2014. It was suggested that the commission invite the newly elected mayor to a commission meeting.

Minute approved.

Mike Chin, SOCR Report: Job Assistance Ordinance (JOA) started September 1st. SOCR now has a position dedicated to Intake. This function was formally rotated by Investigators. SOCR leadership team is working on mayor transition planning. SOCR received a HUD grant for housing testing.

District Elections amendment has passed. Commissioners raised concerns on minority voting. The districts are set for 8 years. Monitor for now, possible research and submit a report.

The commission discussed issues around racist mascots; in particular the Redskins mascot. The commission will monitor this.

Gender Justice: It was felt the commission should have a voice on this; the commission will continue to work on it.

IACHR Report: Report to International Human Rights Commission; the good work continues.

Appeals: Marsha out.

50th Anniversary: The keynote speaker will have a panel discussion with the awardees.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform: ICE Detainer: a lot of conversations, no new on resolution. SHRC will join a 5 commission effort on this.

Ethel Branch brought up the fish consumption rate. The current rate is based on Midwest rates in the 70's. The policy has a disparate impact on indigenous populations. This policy shapes EPA laws around acceptable levels around water pollution. Ethel will speak on this at the next meeting.

Adjourned 8:03